

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

CANCEL CLAIMS 1-36

37. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a DG153 or DG177 protein and/or a functional fragment thereof, a nucleic acid molecule encoding a DG153 or DG177 protein and/or a functional fragment thereof and/or an effector/modulator of said nucleic acid molecule and/or said protein or protein fragment, wherein the composition optionally contains pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents, and/or additives.
38. (New) The composition of claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a mammalian DG153 or DG177 nucleic acid, particularly encoding the human DG153 or DG177 polypeptide and/or a nucleic molecule which is complementary thereto or a fragment thereof or a variant thereof.
39. (New) The composition of claim 38, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of
 - (a) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, 3 or 5, or an isoform, fragment or variant of the polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, 3 or 5;
 - (b) a nucleic acid molecule which comprises or is the nucleic acid molecule as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 4;
 - (c) a nucleic acid molecule being degenerate with as a result of the genetic code to the nucleic acid sequences as defined in (a) or (b).
 - (d) a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes at 50°C in a solution containing 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS to a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 2 or as defined in (a) to (c) and/or a nucleic acid molecule which is complementary thereto;
 - (e) a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide which is at least 85%, preferably at least 90%, more preferably at least 95%, more preferably at least 98% and up to 99.6% identical to the human DG153 or DG177, as defined in claim 38 or to a polypeptide as defined in (a);
 - (f) a nucleic acid molecule that differs from the nucleic acid molecule of (a) to (e) by mutation and wherein said mutation causes an alteration, deletion, duplication or premature stop in the encoded polypeptide.
40. (New) The composition of claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a DNA molecule, particularly a cDNA or a genomic DNA.
41. (New) The composition of claim 37, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a recombinant nucleic acid molecule and wherein said polypeptide is a recombinant polypeptide, e.g. a fusion polypeptide.
42. (New) The composition of claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a vector, particularly an expression vector.

43. (New) The composition of claim 37, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is selected from hybridization probes, primers and anti-sense oligonucleotides.
44. (New) The composition of claim 37 which is a diagnostic and/or a therapeutic composition.
45. (New) The composition of claim 37 for the manufacture of an agent for
 - a) detecting and/or verifying, for the treatment, alleviation and/or prevention of pancreatic diseases (e.g. diabetes such as insulin dependent diabetes mellitus or non insulin dependent diabetes mellitus), obesity, metabolic syndrome and/or other metabolic diseases or dysfunctions;
 - b) the modulation of pancreatic development;
 - c) the regeneration of pancreatic tissues or cells, particularly pancreatic beta cells.
46. (New) The composition of claim 37 for application in vivo or in vitro.
47. (New) Use of a DG153 or DG177 nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide encoded thereby or a fragment or a variant of said nucleic acid molecule or said polypeptide and/or an effector/modulator of said nucleic or polypeptide for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of pancreatic diseases (e.g. diabetes such as insulin dependent diabetes mellitus or non insulin dependent diabetes mellitus), obesity, metabolic syndrome and/or other metabolic diseases or dysfunctions for controlling the function of a gene and/or a gene product which is influenced and/or modified by a DG153 or DG177 polypeptide.
48. (New) Use of a DG153 or DG177 nucleic acid molecule or use of a polypeptide encoded thereby, or use of a fragment or a variant of said nucleic acid molecule or said polypeptide, or use of an effector/modulator of said nucleic acid molecule or said polypeptide for identifying substances capable of interacting with a DG153 or DG177 polypeptide in vitro and/or in vivo.
49. (New) A non-human transgenic animal exhibiting a modified expression of a DG153 or DG177 polypeptide, particularly wherein the expression of DG153 or DG177 is increased and/or reduced.
50. (New) A recombinant host cell exhibiting a modified expression of a DG153 or DG177 polypeptide, or a recombinant host cell which comprises a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 37, wherein the host cell is particularly a human cell.
51. (New) A method of identifying a (poly)peptide involved in the regulation of energy homeostasis and/or metabolism in a mammal comprising the steps of
 - (a) contacting a collection of (poly)peptides with a DG153 or DG177 homologous polypeptide or a fragment thereof under conditions that allow binding of said (poly)peptides;

- (b) removing (poly)peptides which do not bind and
- (c) identifying (poly)peptides that bind to said DG153 or DG177 homologous polypeptide.

52. (New) A method of screening for an agent which effects/modulates the interaction of a DG153 or DG177 polypeptide with a binding target comprising the steps of

- (a) incubating a mixture comprising
 - (aa) a DG153 or DG177 polypeptide or a fragment thereof;
 - (ab) a binding target/agent of said DG153 or DG177 polypeptide or fragment thereof; and
 - (ac) a candidate agent under conditions whereby said polypeptide or fragment thereof specifically binds to said binding target at a reference affinity;
- (b) detecting the binding affinity of said DG153 or DG177 polypeptide or fragment thereof to said binding target to determine an affinity for the agent; and
- (c) determining a difference between affinity for the agent and reference affinity.

53. (New) A method for screening for an agent, which effects/modulates the activity of a DG153 or DG177 polypeptide, comprising the steps of

- (a) incubating a mixture comprising
 - (aa) a DG153 or DG177 polypeptide or a fragment thereof; and (ab) a candidate agent under conditions whereby said DG153 or DG177 polypeptide or fragment thereof exhibits a reference activity,
- (b) detecting the activity of said DG153 or DG177 polypeptide or fragment thereof to determine an activity for the agent; and
- (c) determining a difference between activity for the agent and reference activity.

54. (New) Use of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 37 for the preparation of a medicament (i) for the treatment, alleviation and/or prevention of diseases or dysfunctions, including pancreatic diseases (e.g. diabetes), obesity, and/or metabolic syndrome, (ii) for the modulation of pancreatic development and/or (iii) for the regeneration of pancreatic cells or tissues.

55. (New) Use of a polypeptide as defined in claim 37 for the preparation of a medicament (i) for the treatment, alleviation and/or prevention of pancreatic diseases (e.g. diabetes), obesity, and/or metabolic syndrome, (ii) for the modulation of pancreatic development and/or (iii) for the regeneration of pancreatic cells or tissues.

56. (New) Use of a vector and/or a host cell based on a nucleic acid molecule of claim 50, for the preparation of a medicament (i) for the treatment, alleviation and/or prevention of pancreatic diseases (e.g. diabetes), obesity, and/or metabolic syndrome, (ii) for the modulation of pancreatic development and/or (iii) for the regeneration of pancreatic cells or tissues.

57. (New) Use of a DG153 or DG177 nucleic acid molecule or of a fragment thereof for the production of a non-human transgenic animal which over or under expresses the

DG153 or DG177 gene product.

58. (New) Kit comprising at least one of

- (a) a DG153 or DG177 nucleic acid molecule or a functional fragment or an isoform thereof;
- (b) a DG153 or DG177 amino acid molecule or a functional fragment or an isoform thereof;
- (c) a vector comprising the nucleic acid of (a);
- (d) a host cell comprising the nucleic acid of (a) or the vector of (c);
- (e) a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of (a), expressed by the vector of (c) or the host cell of (a);
- (f) a fusion polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of (a);
- (g) an antibody, an aptamer or another effector/modulator against the nucleic acid of (a) or the polypeptide of (b), (e), or (f) and /or
- (h) an anti-sense oligonucleotide of the nucleic acid of (a).